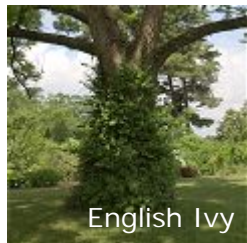


Non-native Invasive Species???

Experts agree that non-native, invasive species are the second most serious threat to the quality of natural areas and their ability to support wildlife (habitat loss is the top threat). Scientists estimate that invasive species are present in over 100 million acres of



English Ivy

the U.S. (an area roughly the size of California) with 14 million new acres (an area about half the size of Virginia) infested every year. Over the last 30 years, invasive species have slowly taken a firm foothold in our area.

Why are non-native invasive species such a problem?

Invasive plant species have most if not all of the following qualities:

- Grow, reach maturity and reproduce rapidly
- Produce abundant seeds that disperse and colonize extensively
- Spreads readily through vegetative means
- Tolerant of a variety of habitats and environmental conditions
- Aggressively out compete other plant species (typically natives)
- Difficult to remove or control



Stiltgrass

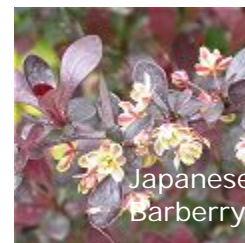
The overall effect of non-native, invasive species is to reduce the biological diversity of our naturalized areas. Invasive species can cause permanent changes in plant communities by out competing native plants and crowding native species to such an extent that few can grow alongside the invasive species. Numerous studies indicate that this reduction in plant diversity also results in the reduction of the quality of wildlife habitats and in wildlife populations themselves. All of this results in land management becoming more difficult and less predictable after non-native plant invasions.



Mile-a-Minute

What to do!?

Help us band together as ecological stewards to care for our resources



Japanese Barberry

Here's How!

Become a Volunteer for the IMA program

Become a volunteer with the Invasive Management Area program (IMA). The Invasive Management Area program is volunteer-led pilot project designed to reduce some problematic invasive plants on our parklands. We have 20 sites throughout the county, led by volunteers like you. We are also looking for volunteers to assist our site leaders in managing and planting native plants in their sites.

Learn something new

Get your hands in the soil

Improve a park area of your choice

Meet people with common interests

Spend time outdoors

Bring together other motivated individuals

Adopt an area, involve the community and help restore Fairfax County parkland. We cannot work on every species this year – but we can make a good start.

Invasive Management Area Program
ONLINE:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm>



Kudzu



IMA Volunteer Leader

Invasive Management Area
Leader: _____

Park: _____

Next Workday: _____



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